

★ JAMES O. EASTLAND, MISS., CHAIRMAN  
EDWARD M. KENNEDY, MASS.  
BIRCH BAYH, IND.  
ROBERT C. BYRD, W. VA.  
JAMES ABOURZK, S. DAK.  
JOSEPH R. BIDENT, JR., DEL.  
JOSEPH C. CULVER, IOWA  
HOWARD M. METZENBAUM, OHIO  
DENNIS DECONCINI, ARIZ.  
PAUL G. HATFIELD, MONT.  
MARYON ALLEN, ALA.

SUBCOMMITTEE:  
BIRCH BAYH, IND., CHAIRMAN  
HOWARD M. METZENBAUM, OHIO  
JAMES ABOURZK, S. DAK.  
MARYON ALLEN, ALA.  
WILLIAM L. SCOTT, VA.  
ORRIN G. HATCH, UTAH  
NELS ACKERSON, CHIEF COUNSEL AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
MARY K. JOLLY, STAFF DIRECTOR  
KEVIN O. FALEY, GENERAL COUNSEL

FRANCIS C. ROSENBERGER  
CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

RECEIVED DEC 20 1978

December 14, 1978

Ray E. Snyder, Esq.  
Dunlin, Thienpont, Potthast & Snyder, Ltd.  
208 South LaSalle Street/Suite 2060  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Mr. Snyder:

Thank you for your letter of November 28, 1978 regarding the Small Business Nonprofit Organization Patent Procedures Act.

I have asked the General Accounting Office to analyze the effect that the present Government patent policies have had on innovation. I think that the experience that the University of Missouri at Rolla had with the Department of the Interior is a very good example of an overly cautious patent policy killing a promising idea. I have sent a copy of your letter to the GAO so that they will also be aware of this example.

Thank you very much for taking the time to alert me to the problems that the University experienced.

Sincerely,

  
Birch Bayh  
Chairman

cc: Jack Heinbaugh